



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending July 10, 2005

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Good Week for Field Work: Relief! Remnants from Tropical Storm Cindy brought needed rainfall to many areas of the state, aiding crop conditions and restoring topsoil moisture to a more desirable level. Continued rain in this week's forecast would really benefit areas that are still in need. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included making hay, baling straw, harvesting small grains, spraying pesticides, spreading manure, spreading fertilizer, spreading lime, building fence, caring for livestock, and machinery repairs.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 10, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
14	33	50	3

Crops: Eighty-six percent of barley is now harvested, on pace with last year and the 5-year average. Nine percent of corn has begun silking, the same as the 5-year average. Corn height is now at 48 inches, on pace with the historic average but well behind last year. Corn crop conditions improved slightly from last week with 62 percent of the crop rated as either good or excellent. Eleven percent of soybeans have bloomed, well behind last year's pace. Fifty-nine percent of soybeans are rated as either good or excellent. This year's wheat crop is now 81 percent ripe with 20 percent of the crop having been harvested. Wheat continues to look good as 79 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Oats are heading at 92 percent, and 30 percent of the crop is turning yellow. Seven percent of the oat crop is now ripe. Oat conditions remained steady from last week as 65 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Sixty-two percent of the 2nd cutting of alfalfa is now complete, as well as 6 percent of the 3rd cutting.

Both are well ahead of historic trends. Sixty-one percent of the alfalfa stand is rated as either good or excellent, the same as last week. Ninety-two percent of the 1st cutting of timothy clover is now cut, as well as 16 percent of the 2nd cutting. Fifty-nine percent of the timothy clover is rated as either good or excellent. The quality of hay made this week was 1 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. This was down from last week.

The peach and apple crops remain in excellent shape. Sixty-seven percent of peaches and 84 percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent.

Livestock: Pasture conditions were rated with the following: 14 percent very poor, 22 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 24 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Pastures remain poor due to heat stress, but continued rainfall looks to improve conditions in the near future. A few reports surfaced of modest drops in milk production due to the hot weather.

U.S. As of July 3, 2005: Highlights: Moderate to heavy precipitation fell in the Ohio Valley and Atlantic Coast States. Corn: Eleven percent of the crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 7 percentage points behind last year but the same as the 5-year average. Silking had not yet begun in the northern and western Corn Belt. Soybeans: Blooming advanced to 21 percent complete, compared with 19 percent last year and 15 percent for the 5-year average. Winter Wheat: Producers had reaped 62 percent of their crop, 2 points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of normal. Small Grains: Forty-eight percent of the barley crop was headed, 3 points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 10, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 10, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	92	60	73	3	0.00	0	7.30	-4.62	34	1,124	155	1,948
Franklin	87	54	70	1	1.13	5	10.81	-2.80	55	1,002	71	1,874
Meadville	86	57	71	3	0.02	2	8.70	-4.40	40	1,068	229	1,936
Mercer	88	55	71	3	0.96	4	11.64	-1.58	52	1,025	100	1,875
Springboro	89	51	69	-2	0.00	0	9.96	-1.71	42	951	-33	1,759
Warren	87	53	70	2	0.16	3	9.63	-4.19	42	973	74	1,825
North Central												
Bradford Region	81	49	66	2	2.33	4	12.59	-1.41	49	734	100	1,513
Emporium	87	53	70	4	2.20	5	8.92	-5.15	45	968	251	1,821
Kane	84	45	65	1	1.69	4	10.98	-3.09	44	694	68	1,464
Laporte	81	55	67	-4	2.33	4	13.71	0.50	48	860	-68	1,669
Lock Haven	89	54	72	2	1.41	5	7.56	-5.22	38	1,138	138	2,041
Port Allegany	84	50	67	2	3.52	4	9.95	-3.64	41	828	101	1,611
Renovo	88	57	72	2	0.57	4	5.42	-7.36	38	1,117	117	2,019
Ridgway	85	52	68	3	1.87	5	10.17	-3.90	44	824	107	1,651
Stevenson Dam	86	51	70	5	1.86	4	8.61	-5.46	46	1,033	316	1,917
Towanda	88	51	70	1	0.82	4	9.72	-1.25	37	1,029	88	1,895
Wellsboro	81	47	65	-1	1.57	5	12.75	1.75	40	790	124	1,572
Williamsport	89	59	73	2	3.17	4	11.25	-1.53	31	1,253	129	2,167
Northeast												
Hawley	83	52	67	-1	1.43	5	12.54	0.23	41	899	127	1,729
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	60	72	2	1.36	5	8.72	-3.18	37	1,247	189	2,161
Susquehanna	85	54	69	3	0.81	5	10.43	-2.65	45	970	233	1,817
West Central												
Butler	87	52	72	3	1.01	2	11.78	-1.25	39	1,069	94	1,983
New Castle	90	55	73	3	1.49	2	13.26	1.30	40	1,164	186	2,074
Slippery Rock	89	53	73	5	1.11	2	10.74	-2.00	41	1,074	196	1,998
Central												
Altoona/Blair	86	54	70	-1	1.66	3	5.87	-6.14	22	1,061	-9	1,954
DuBois	83	53	69	1	1.63	5	10.15	-3.22	53	964	57	1,839
Lewistown	88	58	73	1	2.24	3	9.30	-3.47	34	1,231	52	2,166
Middletown	89	62	75	0	2.68	3	9.98	-2.57	30	1,499	157	2,474
Prince Gallitzi	86	49	69	2	1.12	3	8.56	-6.41	44	899	73	1,745
Selinsgrove	89	56	72	1	2.15	4	10.88	-2.02	31	1,163	74	2,078
State College	86	59	71	1	0.95	3	6.37	-5.45	39	1,161	109	2,085
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	86	57	72	-2	1.75	4	13.88	1.11	36	1,276	60	2,225
Lehighnton	86	54	71	-3	1.40	4	13.12	0.33	37	1,138	-23	2,066
Matamoras	82	51	67	-4	1.52	4	12.18	-1.35	41	972	-68	1,841
Tobyhanna	84	56	70	5	2.10	5	14.21	0.03	51	1,103	441	2,019
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	90	60	74	4	0.40	4	8.12	-4.36	41	1,357	284	2,316
Derry	88	55	71	1	0.99	5	12.44	-0.16	39	1,098	108	2,014
Myersdale	84	52	67	-3	2.20	3	11.01	-2.85	37	777	-189	1,600
Mount Pleasant	89	53	72	4	0.94	5	11.98	-2.47	46	1,070	204	1,989
Pittsburgh Intl	88	57	73	2	1.89	2	12.58	0.86	41	1,267	133	2,209
Rector	86	56	71	3	1.56	5	11.32	-3.13	52	1,058	192	1,974
Waynesburg	89	56	72	2	2.14	4	11.04	-1.57	36	1,103	66	2,031
South Central												
Biglerville	88	60	73	-2	2.59	3	12.73	1.10	36	1,273	-53	2,226
Everett	83	49	66	-5	1.01	3	6.31	-5.12	36	818	-222	1,667
Hanover	86	58	73	-2	3.38	4	11.60	-0.03	33	1,258	-68	2,202
Shippensburg	91	59	73	-1	3.84	3	12.29	0.56	37	1,312	-11	2,253
South Mountain	82	54	69	-2	2.18	4	11.22	-0.79	31	1,123	60	2,076
York	87	57	73	-3	2.11	3	8.54	-4.30	24	1,290	-34	2,233
Southeast												
Green Lane	85	59	72	-2	2.58	3	12.97	0.61	30	1,250	101	2,206
Hamburg	87	58	73	2	2.12	3	11.88	-3.15	30	1,291	259	2,241
Hopewell	85	60	72	-4	2.74	5	14.06	1.15	43	1,263	-131	2,221
Lancaster	84	60	73	-2	3.98	3	15.04	2.18	32	1,328	109	2,282
Neshaminy Falls	85	57	71	-3	2.89	4	16.22	2.06	30	1,150	-66	2,081
New Holland	87	61	73	-1	3.21	3	10.89	-1.97	33	1,344	125	2,302
Philadelphia	87	62	74	-3	2.51	3	12.75	0.26	32	1,503	80	2,500
Philadelphia NE	87	60	74	-3	2.17	4	14.64	2.15	30	1,462	39	2,448
Reading	89	60	74	0	2.97	3	10.46	-3.43	32	1,405	218	2,365
Valley Forge Na	89	55	71	-6	2.55	3	14.13	1.22	23	1,162	-232	2,088
Willow Grove	84	61	72	-2	1.70	4	12.56	-1.60	30	1,343	127	2,315

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Sharon Weigle (FSA) - Crops stressed by dry soil and hot temperatures received much needed light rains early in the week and slightly cooler temperatures. Tropical Storm Cindy dumped heavy rains across most of the county Thursday night and Friday; some areas experienced up to 7 inches! Temperatures have been warm and humid. Corn stressed last week should have relief from these rains and give alfalfa a boost, as well. Wheat harvest is on the horizon. Cherry and raspberry harvests are on the downhill slide with lighter crops reported.

ADAMS COUNTY, Tara Baugher, (EXT) - The recent rainfall will be especially beneficial for early peach varieties entering final swell and for newly planted fruit trees.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Several inches of rain the past week have turned marginal crops into very good looking stands. Wheat harvest was pushed back due to the moisture, but the corn and beans really took off. Haymaking has slowed.

BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA) - Since July 4th, we have received between 4 and 7 inches of rain. Corn growth prior to the rain was stalled because of hot and dry conditions. The rain has stalled small grain harvest and haymaking.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Received some much needed rain this week. Showers have been very spotty. Barley is being harvested; wheat will begin soon.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Finally got some much needed rain. One-and-a-half inches in my gauge for the week. Dry conditions continue, but crops are showing some improvement from the rain we did get. With additional rainfall this week, crops may get back on track. Second cuttings of hay are small.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - Timely rain last week saved the corn crop. Early planted snap beans will have very low yields. Dairy farmers are down in milk due to the hot weather with more 90 degree days in the forecast.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Hot, dry week overall. Farmers were keeping busy with haymaking and repairs. Pasture conditions have dramatically changed from fair to poor. Regrowth has stopped with the lack of rain, and water is becoming a problem. Streams and springs have dried up, increasing demands on wells to water livestock. Some farms have already started hauling water.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H Craig (EXT) - A few corn plants in many fields are just starting to initiate reproduction. Areas north and east of Harrisburg finally received a measurable rain with 2 to 4 inches. Could not have come at a better time. Corn and soybeans have responded and are starting to really stretch up. Poor conditions of most perennial forage crops due to drought stress. Annual forages such as sorghum sudan grass are performing well. Wheat harvest slowed down by Cindy. Some oats are ripe too. It's a busy time for the combine operators and mills.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - We finally got some rain, hail, and wind. The northern part of Clarion County, Forest, and parts of Warren were damaged by hail for all crops. Wheat, barley, and oats were blown over flat with hail damage.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - Showers during the week did wonders for crops; however, more is still needed to assure a full crop. Wheat harvest is winding down and yields are very good. Hay harvest has come to a halt due to hot weather. Pastures are becoming very short as well. Peach season has begun, and it looks like good quality fruit will be available.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - Recent rains have alleviated the moisture stress most fruit and vegetable crops were experiencing. Growers have currently stopped irrigating.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr - Rain slowed small grain harvest a bit last week but was appreciated very much as crop fields were starting to show signs of drought. Sweet corn is being harvested locally.

LEHIGH COUNTY, Bob Leiby (EXT) - Rain from remnants of Tropical Storm Cindy was very welcome even though it caused delays of harvest of an apparent high quality wheat crop.

PERRY COUNTY, David L Swartz (EXT) - Over 3 inches of rain from various storms this week relieved the critical shortage of topsoil moisture that we were experiencing for the past 3 weeks.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - A good week for haymaking with some rain received. Corn is growing well and some 2nd cutting is being harvested.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer - Very beneficial rains on Wednesday improved the crop conditions; however, there are a few spots that rain will no longer be of help. Wheat is being harvested with yields being above normal. The main activities were harvesting wheat, baling straw, making hay, and spraying herbicides

SNYDER COUNTY, Charles Kessler - Some much needed rain arrived just in time to save several crops in the area.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS) - Thunderstorms and rain showers were a welcome event last week. Reports of 0.5 inch to 3 inches of rain reported. Main activities were making hay, spreading manure, caring for livestock, and repairing machinery.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Much needed rain this week. Right around an inch. Some late 1st cutting of hay got wet.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Scattered storms brought some much needed rain to everyone. A few areas are still on the dry side. Most crops look very good. Wheat harvest has begun with excellent yields and test weights being reported.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 10, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	9	22	9
Corn average height, inches	48	60	43
Barley, harvested	86	89	85
Wheat, turning yellow	100	100	96
Wheat, ripe	81	88	69
Wheat, harvested	20	47	32
Oats, heading or headed	92	91	90
Oats, turning yellow	30	30	36
Oats, ripe	7	0	0
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	62	54	48
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	6	0	0
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	92	86	82
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	16	6	9

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 10, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	6	30	50	12
Wheat	1	2	18	67	12
Oats	1	4	30	55	10
Soybeans	1	6	34	50	9
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	7	31	50	11
Timothy clover stand	1	6	34	53	6
Quality of hay made	1	6	31	48	14
Pasture	14	22	39	24	1
Peaches	2	4	27	47	20
Apples	2	3	11	52	32

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